

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for managing documents, comprising:  
storing a first document having a first style in a document repository;  
creating an identification (ID) associated with the first document;  
providing a discernment information table, the discernment information table including the ID associated with the first document; and  
providing a related information table, the related information table including the ID and related information of the first document, the related information including at least an operational history of the first document.
2. The method for managing documents according to claim 1, wherein the discernment information table further includes a name of the first document.
3. The method for managing documents according to claim 2, the method further comprising:  
translating the first document to create a second document having a second style different from the first style;  
updating the discernment table to include a name of the second document and to associate the ID with the second document; and  
modifying the related information table to include related information of the second document as associated with the ID, the related information of the second document including at least an operational history of the second document.
4. The method for managing documents according to claim 3, wherein the second style is different from the first style based on a different method of storing the first and second documents, respectively.

5. The method for managing documents according to claim 3, wherein the second style is different from the first style based on different forms of the first and second documents, respectively.

6. The method for managing documents according to claim 2, further comprising:

translating the first document to create a second document having a second style different from the first style;

associating the ID with the second document and with related information of the second document, the related information including at least operational history of the second document.

7. The method for managing documents according to claim 6, wherein the step of translating the first document to create the second document includes printing a copy of the first document onto a medium to create the second document, and wherein the step of associating the ID with the second document includes printing the ID as an ID identifier onto the medium.

8. The method for managing documents according to claim 7, wherein the medium is one of paper and a transparency.

9. The method for managing documents according to claim 7, wherein the ID identifier is one of a bar code and an electronic water mark.

10. The method for managing documents according to claim 7, further comprising:

scanning the medium to translate the second document to create a third document having a third style different from the second style;

- reading the ID identifier;
- updating the discernment information table to include a name of the third document and to associate the ID with the third document; and
- modifying the related information table to include related information of the third document as associated with the ID, the related information including at least operational history of the third document.

11. The method for managing documents according to claim 7, further comprising:

- modifying the medium of the second document;
- scanning the modified medium to translate the second document to create a third document having a third style different from the second style;
- reading the ID identifier;
- comparing the first document and the third document and determining that the medium has been modified;
- updating the discernment information table to include a name of the third document and to associate the ID with the third document; and
- modifying the related information table to include related information of the third document as associated with the ID, the related information including at least operational history of the third document and indicating that the third document is a modified version of the first document.

12. The method for managing documents according to claim 11, further comprising:

- extracting a modified portion of the third document based on the step of comparing the first document and the third document, and
- displaying the modified portion.

13. The method for managing documents according to claim 11, wherein the first document has a first document form and the third document has a third document form different from the first document form, and wherein the step of comparing the first document with the third document includes converting the first document into the third document form.

14. The method for managing documents according to claim 13, wherein the third document form is a bit map form.

15. The method for managing documents according to claim 3, further comprising:  
deleting the first document after the second document is created, and  
modifying the operational history of the first document in the related information table to indicate that the first document has been deleted.

16. The method for managing documents according to claim 15, further comprising:  
translating the second document to create a third document having a third style different from the second style;  
associating the ID with the third document; and  
taking an electronic action based on the first document being deleted.

17. The method for managing documents according to claim 16, wherein the electronic action comprises at least one of displaying a message indicating that the first document has been deleted and registering the third document as a new document.

18. The method for managing documents according to claim 6, further comprising:

associating with a first user creating the first document, a first authority level and a second authority level;

associating with a second user creating the second document, the first authority level;

wherein the first and second authority levels grant access to related information of the first and second documents in the related information table; and

wherein the first authority level grants access to related information of the second document in the related information table, but not access to related information of the first document in the related information table.

19. The method for managing documents according to claim 6, further comprising:

associating with a first domain in which the first document was created, a first authority level and a second authority level;

associating with a second domain in which the second document was created, the first authority level;

wherein the first and second authority levels grant access in the first domain to related information of the first and second documents in the related information table; and

wherein the first authority levels grants access in the second domain to related information of the second document in the related information table.

20. The method for managing documents according to claim 19, wherein the first authority level does not provide any access to related information of the first document, created in the first domain, in the related information table.

21. The method for managing documents according to claim 19, wherein the first document has one of a first security level and a second security level, wherein the first security level is lower than the second security level, and

wherein the first authority level does not provide access, in the second domain, to the related information of the first document if the first document has the second security level.

22. The method for managing documents according to claim 19, wherein the first document has one of a first security level and a second security level, wherein the first security level is lower than the second security level, and

wherein, if the first document has the second security level, the first authority level can view, in the second domain, the related information of the first document, but cannot copy the related information of the first document.

23. The method for managing documents according to claim 19, wherein the related information of the first document includes first security level information and second security level information, wherein the first security level information has a lower security level than the second security level information, and

wherein, the first authority level can access, in the second domain, the related information of the first document that is first security level information but not the related information of the first document that is second security level information.

24. A document management system, comprising:  
a processor; and

a memory, coupled to the processor, the memory having a discernment information table and a related information table,

wherein the processor is configured for:

storing a first document having a first style in a document repository;

creating an identification (ID) associated with the first document;

providing a discernment information table, the discernment information table including the ID associated with the first document; and

providing a related information table, the related information table including the ID and related information of the first document, the related information including at least an operational history of the first document.

25. The document management system according to claim 24, wherein the discernment information table further includes a name of the first document.

26. The document management system according to claim 25, the processor further configured for:

translating the first document to create a second document having a second style different from the first style;

updating the discernment table to include a name of the second document and to associate the ID with the second document; and

modifying the related information table to include related information of the second document as associated with the ID, the related information of the second document including at least an operational history of the second document.

27. The document management system according to claim 26, wherein the second style is different from the first style based on a different method of storing the first and second documents, respectively.

28. The document management system according to claim 26, wherein the second style is different from the first style based on different forms of the first and second documents, respectively.

29. The document management system according to claim 25, the processor further configured for:

translating the first document to create a second document having a second style different from the first style;

associating the ID with the second document and with related information of the second document, the related information including at least operational history of the second document.

30. The document management system according to claim 29, wherein the step of translating the first document to create the second document includes printing a copy of the first document onto a medium to create the second document, and wherein the step of associating the ID with the second document includes printing the ID as an ID identifier onto the medium.

31. The document management system according to claim 30, wherein the medium is one of paper and a transparency.

32. The document management system according to claim 30, wherein the ID identifier is one of a bar code and an electronic water mark.

33. The document management system according to claim 30, the processor further configured for:



scanning the medium to translate the second document to create a third document having a third style different from the second style;  
reading the ID identifier;  
updating the discernment information table to include a name of the third document and to associate the ID with the third document; and  
modifying the related information table to include related information of the third document as associated with the ID, the related information including at least operational history of the third document.

34. The document management system according to claim 30, the processor further configured for:

modifying the medium of the second document;  
scanning the modified medium to translate the second document to create a third document having a third style different from the second style;  
reading the ID identifier;  
comparing the first document and the third document and determining that the medium has been modified;  
updating the discernment information table to include a name of the third document and to associate the ID with the third document; and  
modifying the related information table to include related information of the third document as associated with the ID, the related information including at least operational history of the third document and indicating that the third document is a modified version of the first document.

35. The document management system according to claim 34, the processor further configured for:

extracting a modified portion of the third document based on the step of comparing the first document and the third document, and  
displaying the modified portion.

36. The document management system according to claim 34, wherein the first document has a first document form and the third document has a third document form different from the first document form, and wherein the step of comparing the first document with the third document includes converting the first document into the third document form.

37. The document management system according to claim 36, wherein the third document form is a bit map form.

38. The document management system according to claim 26, the processor further configured for:  
deleting the first document after the second document is created, and  
modifying the operational history of the first document in the related information table to indicate that the first document has been deleted.

39. The document management system according to claim 38, the processor further configured for:  
translating the second document to create a third document having a third style different from the second style;  
associating the ID with the third document; and  
taking an electronic action based on the first document being deleted.

40. The document management system according to claim 39, wherein the electronic action comprises at least one of displaying a message indicating that the first document has been deleted and registering the third document as a new document.

41. The document management system according to claim 29, the processor further configured for:

associating with a first user creating the first document, a first authority level and a second authority level;

associating with a second user creating the second document, the first authority level;

wherein the first and second authority levels grant access to related information of the first and second documents in the related information table; and

wherein the first authority level grants access to related information of the second document in the related information table, but not access to related information of the first document in the related information table.

42. The document management system according to claim 29, the processor further configured for:

associating with a first domain in which the first document was created, a first authority level and a second authority level;

associating with a second domain in which the second document was created, the first authority level;

wherein the first and second authority levels grant access in the first domain to related information of the first and second documents in the related information table; and

wherein the first authority levels grants access in the second domain to related information of the second document in the related information table.

43. The document management system according to claim 42, wherein the first authority level does not provide any access to related information of the first document, created in the first domain, in the related information table.

44. The document management system according to claim 42, wherein the first document has one of a first security level and a second security level, wherein the first security level is lower than the second security level, and

wherein the first authority level does not provide access, in the second domain, to the related information of the first document if the first document has the second security level.

45. The document management system according to claim 42, wherein the first document has one of a first security level and a second security level, wherein the first security level is lower than the second security level, and

wherein, if the first document has the second security level, the first authority level can view, in the second domain, the related information of the first document, but cannot copy the related information of the first document.

46. The document management system according to claim 42, wherein the related information of the first document includes first security level information and second security level information, wherein the first security level information has a lower security level than the second security level information, and

wherein, the first authority level can access, in the second domain, the related information of the first document that is first security level information but not the related information of the first document that is second security level information.